GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:382
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
DECLINING WATER LEVEL OF DAMS RESERVOIRS
Bhujbal Shri Sameer

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water level in most of the dams/reservoirs in the country is declining constantly:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the action plan of the Government in this regard and the success achieved as a result therof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES(SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. +382 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2009 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING DECLINING WATER LEVEL OF DAMS/RESERVOIRS.

(a) to (c): Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring the storage position of 81 reservoirs in the country. The status of total live storage in these reservoirs at the end of the monsoon season (30th September) during the last 10 years, statewise, is given at Annexure. The data in this regard does not indicate any declining trend in the total live storage of the monitored reservoirs in the country at the end of monsoon season over the last 10 years.

The storage of water in dams/reservoirs increases during the monsoon season when the inflow in the dams/reservoirs is more than the required outflow from the same for various purposes. The stored water is utilized during the non-monsoon season and storages in the dams/reservoirs depletes during that period. The water storage in the reservoirs at any point of time depends upon the quantity of rainfall received in their respective catchments as well as withdrawals from the reservoirs.

There has been deficient monsoon rainfall in the country as a whole during the year 2009. As per information provided by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the overall deficiency in the rainfall during 2009 i.e. variation in the rainfall during 2009 with respect to normal rainfall is -22%. The deficient rainfall has resulted in relatively lesser flow into the dams/reservoirs. The data in respect of 81 reservoirs monitored by Central Water Commission indicate that their total live storage at the end of the monsoon season 2009 was 90.49 BCM which is 10 percent less than the corresponding last 10 years average live storage.

Water being a State subject, the operation and regulation of water in dams/reservoirs is done by the respective project authorities/State Governments as per their requirements. However, keeping in view the deficient rainfall in the Country, an advisory was issued by Ministry of Water Resources to all the States and Union Territories on 30.06.09 advising:

to utilize the available surface water resources prudently and harness the possible ground water resources to tide over any possible shortage.
to make judicious use of water available from the reservoirs, giving priority to drinking water supply and agriculture as per National Water Policy.
to work out water budget for every reservoir covering drinking water, agriculture, other uses and evaporation losses.
to take over the successful exploratory wells drilled by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) for enhancing water availability.
to get in touch with the regional offices of CGWB and avail technical assistance in identifying potential sources of ground water to harness them early.